(c) to (e) As per the information available with the Ministry, the assistance given under various schemes/programmes are utilized.

Compensation on Pipeline Projects

†2896. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge amount compensation regarding the pipelines being laid for the transport of petroleum products (including gas) to various parts of the country under the Petroleum and Minerals pipeline Act has not been distributed for many years; and

(b) if so, the details of undistributed amount alongwith its project-wise and State-wise period?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Oil Pubic Sector Undertakings acquire Right of User (RoU) to lay pipelines for transportation of crude oil, gas and petroleum products. The Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962 and the Rules framed thereunder provide the manner in which the RoUs are acquired and compensation paid. Oil PSUs have accordingly been acquiring RoUs and paying compensation to the affected persons. Information in respect of dues on account of compensation, project-wise and State-wise, is being collected from all oil PSUs and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Oil Companies Demand for Review of Oil Prices

2897. SHRIMATI S. G INDIRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public sector oil companies have demanded a fresh review of oil prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that world oil prices continue to hover at around US Dollar 57 per a barrel; and

(d) if so, at what price India is getting the oil?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have requested a review of the prices of sensitive products, *viz,* petrol, diesel, PDS kerosene and domestic LPG on account of unprecedented, sharp and spiraling increase in international oil prices. As India is highly dependent on oil imports, with about 76% of crude processed in Indian refineries being imported, international oil prices decisively impact on domestic crude prices and, therefore, on domestic retail products prices. Since April 2005, bench mark crude oil prices have touched unprecedented high levels, with the Indian Basket of crude oil touching an all time high of US $62.11/bbl on 12-8-2005.

The Government is continuously monitoring the price situation. The pricing mechanism attempts to balance the interests of various stakeholders, *viz* consumers, Government and oil companies.

Adulteration of petroleum products

†2898. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will-the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that at those places where private sector petrol pumps have been opened, the consumers there have started showing less interest for the public sector petrol pumps like Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, Hindustan Petroleum and I.B.P.;

(b) whether adulteration and under-weighing done by petrol pumps of public sector and lack of consumer services there are main reasons for this disinterest shown by the people towards these petrol pumps;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to prevent adulteration and under-weighing; and

(d) the number of petrol pumps which have been raided during the last three years to prevent adulteration and under weighing and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Government have granted the rights for marketing of transportation fuels to new companies in terms

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